

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 NRC-05 NEA-11
IO-13 /143 W

-----014783 301846Z /64

R 301659Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD
VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EEC
SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: ENERGY AND NUCLEAR QUESTIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 10153 (B) BRUSSELS 10152

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY ISSUES,
COMMISSION OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL
FOR THE MAY 30 EC ENERGY COUNCIL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE
THAT SOME OF THE MEASURES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
SUPPORT PROJECTS IN THE ENERGY AREA MAY BE APPROVED IN
PRINCIPLE. REGARDING TREATMENT OF ENERGY AT THE BONN
ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JULY, THE US SIDE EXPRESSED SOME
RESERVE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING IT ENDORSE
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NATIONAL CEILINGS ON OIL IMPORTS OR SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR
PRODUCTION FROM OTHER ENERGY SOURCES. THE US SIDE SUG-
GESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE THE SUMMIT
ENDORSE SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR ENERGY COOPERA-
TION. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER SAID THAT US FELT THAT THERE
WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AN INCREASE OF OIL PRICES THROUGH
1978 DESPITE HARD POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM SOME OF THE

FINANCIALLY PRESSED OPEC STATES. WHILE THE DEMAND FOR ENERGY WILL EVENTUALLY OVERTAKE THE SUPPLY, EXACTLY WHEN THIS WILL OCCUR WILL DEPEND PRIMARILY UPON LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUT SHOULD HAPPEN SOME TIME BETWEEN 1983 AND THE EARLY 1990'S. THE EC SIDE GENERALLY AGREED, BUT FELT THAT A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD DELAY THE ENERGY CRUNCH. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR SUCH AN EFFORT DURING THE PRESENT ENERGY GLUT. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT INFCE WAS PROCEEDING WELL AND WAS INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF NUCLEAR ISSUES. THE EC SIDE FELT THAT IF A CLEAR CONSENSUS DOES NOT EMERGE FROM INFCE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A POST-INFCE POLICY EXERCISE TO DETERMINE HOW THE INFCE FINDINGS SHOULD BE APPLIED. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT WHILE AN ENERGY DIALOGUE WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL, THIS COULD PROBABLY NOT BE UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY AND THAT WE SHOULD SEARCH FOR INDIRECT WAYS TO ACHIEVE IT. THE US POINTED OUT THAT IF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONTINUES, WHEN IT EXAMINES WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES IT WILL HAVE TO ENCOMPASS AN ENERGY DIALOGUE AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

EC ENERGY POLICY:

2. AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTION BY COMMISSIONER BRUNNER, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY LEONARD WILLIAMS BEGAN WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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A REVIEW OF EC ENERGY POLICY. HE NOTED THAT WHILE THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING ENERGY POLICIES BY THE MEMBER STATES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, FORMULATION OF A POLICY AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL HAS BEEN SLOW. HE THEN GAVE A SUMMARY OF THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE MAY 30 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EC ENERGY MINISTERS (DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN REF B). HE ALSO NOTED THAT FOR THE LONGER TERM THE COMMISSION IS LOOKING AT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENERGY DEMANDS THROUGH 1990.

3. REGARDING SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MAY 30 COUNCIL, WILLIAMS NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED ENERGY CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND THOSE TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, ARE INTENDED TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES AND TO COMPLEMENT WORK AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST. HOPEFULLY, THESE WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AS JOINT PROJECTS BETWEEN TWO OR MORE MEMBER STATES. THEY INCLUDE BOTH SMALL AND BIG PROJECTS TO TEST THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH RESEARCH PROGRAMS. AT A MINIMUM, THE COMMISSION HOPES THAT THE MAY 30 COUNCIL WILL APPROVE THESE MEASURES IN

PRINCIPLE, PERMITTING FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE REGULATIONS
AT THE NEXT ENERGY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER.

4. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER NOTED THAT THE US IS ALSO GOING
TO UNDERTAKE SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ALTHOUGH
FUNDING HAS BEEN CUT BACK, AND HE HOPED THE US PROJECT
COULD COMPLEMENT RATHER THAN DUPLICATE THOSE BEING
UNDERTAKEN IN THE EC.

ENERGY AT THE SUMMIT:

5. REGARDING THE ROLE OF ENERGY FOR THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT

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SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 NRC-05 NEA-11
IO-13 /143 W

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IN BONN IN JULY, WILLIAMS NOTED THAT THE SUMMIT PREPARA-
TORY GROUP HAD DISCUSSED: (A) THE POSSIBILITY OF ENCOURAG-
ING INVESTMENT IN ENERGY AS A "MOTOR FORCE" FOR ECONOMIC
GROWTH; (B) A GREATER AND BETTER-COORDINATED ENERGY AID
EFFORT FOR THE THIRD WORLD; AND (C) THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AGREE TO SET CEILINGS ON THEIR
INTENDED OIL IMPORTS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS
FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE JULY SUMMIT ENDORSE
SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR ENERGY COOPERATION
DESIGNED TO AVOID DUPLICATION, ASSURE A COMMON APPROACH
AND FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES RATHER
THAN EMERGE WITH MERELY GENERAL LANGUAGE CALLING FOR
GREATER ENERGY COOPERATION. WILLIAMS SAID THAT HE WAS

HOPEFUL THE MAY 24 COUNCIL WOULD APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 1985 SINCE HE FELT THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR BOTH THE BREMEN AND BONN SUMMITS.

6. BRUNNER NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS MADE PROPOSALS
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TO THE EC COUNCIL TO STIMULATE COAL PRODUCTION IN THE COMMUNITY IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT THE EC 1985 COAL PRODUCTION TARGETS ARE REACHED. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE SERIOUS SHORTFALL IN EXPECTED NUCLEAR ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION AS COMPARED TO THE 1985 TARGET. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THIS SHORTFALL COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE JULY SUMMIT AND SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION ANNOUNCED AT THAT TIME. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT AT A RECENT SUMMIT PREPARATORY MEETING, THE FRENCH FLOATED THE IDEA OF PUBLICLY ENDORSING A GOAL THAT NUCLEAR POWER SHOULD PROVIDE 15 PERCENT OF ALL ENERGY NEEDS BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES BY 1990.

7. MR. COOPER QUESTIONED THE UTILITY ON SETTING TARGETS FOR THE AVAILABILITY OF DOMESTIC ENERGY FROM SEPARATE SOURCES AND FELT THAT THIS MIGHT DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE MAIN GOAL OF REDUCED DEPENDENCE BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON IMPORTED OIL.

8. BRUNNER ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF SETTING SPECIFIC NATIONAL OIL IMPORT CEILINGS WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT BREAK DOWN BY COUNTRIES THE IEA GOAL OF LIMITING OIL IMPORTS BY IEA MEMBERS TO 26 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY BY 1985. MR. COOPER REPLIED THAT THE US HAD NOT ABANDONED THIS IDEA, BUT LOOKS AT IT NOW AS A FALL-BACK POSITION. ENACTMENT OF THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PROGRAM PLUS IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OTHER MEASURES SHOULD PERMIT THE US TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED REDUCTION OF OIL IMPORTS BY 1985. HE BELIEVES IT IS PREMATURE FOR THE US TO ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS OF OIL IMPORT CEILINGS UNLESS IT BECOMES CERTAIN THAT IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM WILL NOT BE APPROVED. WHILE IT IS ALL RIGHT TO MAINTAIN OIL
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IMPORT CEILINGS AS ROUGH GUIDELINES, THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM HAVING NATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO SUCH CEILINGS.

OIL SUPPLY-DEMAND AND PRICES:

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM MR. WILLIAMS REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR NEAR-TERM OIL PRICES AND LONG-TERM OIL SUPPLY AND DEMAND, MR. COOPER FELT THAT THE PRESENT OIL GLUT WOULD NOT DISAPPEAR UNTIL WELL INTO 1979 AND MAYBE 1980, DEPENDING UPON THE DEGREE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH IS THE PRINCIPAL DETERMINING FACTOR AS TO WHEN THE GLUT WILL EVEN OUT. HE FELT THERE WAS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE IN OIL PRICES IN 1978. WHETHER OPEC DECIDES TO INCREASE PRICES IN DECEMBER, HOWEVER, WILL ESSENTIALLY BE A POLITICAL DECISION BY SAUDI-ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE PREPARED TO CUT BACK OIL PRODUCTION ENOUGH TO SUPPORT AN OIL PRICE INCREASE. WHILE THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR IS ALSO A FACTOR, THE PRINCIPAL PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY OIL PRICE INCREASE COMES FROM THE MAJORITY OF OPEC COUNTRIES WHICH ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL A SEVERE DOMESTIC REVENUE PINCH. THESE STATES, WHICH HAVE EXPANDED THEIR EXPENDITURES IN ANTICIPATION OF INCREASED REVENUES, ARE NOW CONCERNED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN OIL PRICES FOR SOME TIME WHILE PRICES OF IMPORTS HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY. SOME OPEC STATES HAVE EVEN HAD TO CUT BACK PRODUCTION. THEY ARE PRESSING HARD FOR A PRICE INCREASE.

10. FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE, THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL LARGELY DETERMINE WHEN THE DEMAND FOR ENERGY WILL CATCH UP WITH THE SUPPLY. THIS WILL PROBABLY OCCUR BETWEEN 1983 AND THE 1990'S. THE US HAS DONE PROJECTIONS FOR OIL DEMAND AND SUPPLY UNDER DIFFERENT SETS OF ASSUMPTIONS. THE MOST OPTIMISTIC PROJECTION BASED ON LOW ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND HIGH ENERGY SUPPLY SHOWS THAT A BALANCE CAN BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE 1980'S. OTHER
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ASSUMPTIONS SHOW AN OIL SHORTFALL OF 5 TO 6 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY BY 1984-85. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL ESTIMATE

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SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 NRC-05 NEA-11
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R 301659Z MAY 78
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OF THE PRICE EFFECT, BUT THIS COULD CAUSE A DOUBLING OF THE PRICE OF OIL, WHICH WOULD BE SPREAD OVER TWO TO THREE YEARS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACT AS THE QUANTITATIVELY EQUIVALENT INCREASE IN 1973 ON INFLATION, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, GNP AND UNEMPLOYMENT. MR. COOPER ALSO NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REACH THE PRODUCTION LEVELS ESTIMATED FOR THE MID-1980'S, THE OPEC STATES MUST MAKE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NECESSARY PHYSICAL FACILITIES BY AT LEAST 1979. THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES MUST ALSO TAKE EARLY ACTION TO ASSURE DECREASED DEMAND FOR IMPORTED OIL THROUGH ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

11. WILLIAMS GENERALLY AGREED WITH MR. COOPER'S ANALYSIS. THE GENERAL EC POSITION IS THAT IF ALL THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES WORK HARD TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION AND INCREASE PRODUCTION, THEY CAN PUSH THE CRUNCH BACK TO THE LATE 1980'S OR THE EARLY 1990'S. WILLIAMS BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
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PUBLIC IS CONFUSED AS TO WHEN THE ENERGY CRUNCH WILL REALLY COME AND MAY NOT GIVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO THE NECESSARY EFFORT. COOPER ALSO CITED EXAMPLES OF CUTTING BACK OF OIL PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA AND THE SHAVING OF GASOLINE PRICES AS EVENTS THAT ARE CONFUSING THE PUBLIC ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ENERGY SITUATION.

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) PROGRAM:

12. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION, GUNTER SCHUSTER, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT INFCE, WHILE STARTING SLOWLY, HAS NOW DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE DRIVE

AND THE WORKING GROUPS ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN FOCUSING ON THE ISSUES TO FURTHER THE BASIC INFCE OBJECTIVES TO ASSURE A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. SCHUSTER FELT THE INFCE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS: (A) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT AN ASSURED SUPPLY OF ENERGY AND NOT PARTICULARLY ABOUT PROLIFERATION; (B) SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BELIEVE THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR AND NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE; AND (C) THE US, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA WHICH FORM A "TRIALOGUE" AS THE MAJOR ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIERS.

13. COOPER NOTED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER INFCE WILL RESULT IN A CONSENSUS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, BUT BOTH HE AND MR. SCHUSTER AGREED THAT EVEN IF IT DOES NOT, INFCE IS MAKING PEOPLE FOCUS ON THE REAL NUCLEAR ISSUE AND CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE REAL DILEMMAS FACING THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. SCHUSTER BELIEVES THAT INFCE WILL NOT COMPLETE ITS FINDING UNTIL EARLY IN 1980 AND FELT THAT IF NO CLEAR CONCLUSIONS EMERGED, IT
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MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A POST-INFCE POLICY EXERCISE TO DETERMINE THE NEXT STEPS AND HOW TO APPLY THE INFCE FINDINGS. MICHAEL DAVIS, DIRECTOR FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY OF THE EC COMMISSION, FELT THAT THERE WAS SOME "CONGESTION" IN THE INFCE WORKING GROUPS WHICH MAKES IT HARDER FOR THEM TO PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK BECAUSE ALL COUNTRIES NOW WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

ENERGY DIALOGUE:

14. BRUNNER NOTED THAT SINCE THE TERMINATION OF CIEC THERE HAS BEEN NO DIALOGUE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OIL PRODUCERS ON ENERGY. WHERE AND HOW COULD SUCH A DIALOGUE BE RESUMED? MR. COOPER SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED NO NEW INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES ARE WILLING TO ENGAGE FRONTALLY IN AN ENERGY DIALOGUE WITH THE DEVELOPED STATES. HE FELT WE WOULD NOT SUCCEED IF WE TRIED TO FORCE SUCH A DIALOGUE EVEN THOUGH MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS. HE FELT THAT CONSIDERATION OF "MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY" IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (IF IT CONTINUES) WILL INEVITABLY HAVE TO TAKE UP DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS. BROADER DISCUSSION OF ENERGY ISSUES IS ALSO POSSIBLE ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE IN THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT WAS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE SUGGESTION BY UN SECGEN WALDHEIM AND

AUSTRALIA FOR A DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS.

15. WILLIAMS WONDERED WHETHER A DIALOGUE MIGHT NOT EMERGE

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OUT OF THE PROPOSED IBRD ACTIVITY IN THE ENERGY AREA.
COOPER FELT THAT THE TYPE OF DIALOGUE THAT MIGHT EMERGE
THROUGH THE WORLD BANK IS NOT THE KIND THE DEVELOPED COUN-
TRIES ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN. DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR DEVELOPMENT, MANFRED CASPARI, NOTED THAT THE GROUP OF
77 HAD FLATLY REJECTED A SUGGESTION IN THE UN SECRETARIAT
SUGGESTING POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN ENERGY, ALTHOUGH THEY
HAD AGREED ON THE NEED FOR HELP FROM THE DEVELOPED COUN-
TRIES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY
SOURCES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE10486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780226-0315
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978059/aaaaahet.tel
Line Count: 429
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ffd0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 10153, 78 BRUSSELS 10152
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2781709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: ENERGY AND NUCLEAR QUESTIONS
TAGS: ENRG, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ffd0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014